

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following claims as amended:

1. (currently amended) A seal comprising a seal edge ~~to be held in close proximity which~~ in use is held in close proximity to a relatively rotating surface, the edge being reinforced by creases formed in a surface element and extending away from the edge of the surface element, characterised in that ~~a desired distribution of perforations~~ [[is]] are provided adjacent to the seal edge above the edge to facilitate air pressure differential across the edge as the rotating surface rotates in relation to the edge and the rotating surface rides upon an enhanced pressure created by air leakage through the perforations to allow air leakage through the seal, the leaking air providing a lifting force on the seal.
2. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 ~~comprising a seal edge to be held in close proximity to a rotating surface in use, the edge being reinforced by creases extending away from the edge,~~ characterised in that ~~between the creases the edge includes slots~~ are provided between the creases to [[facilitate]] introduce flexibility in the edge when held in close proximity to the rotating surface into the seal.
3. (previously cancelled).
4. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the seal includes a plurality of edges in a seal assembly and these edges are presented upon respective spaced seal [[elements]] surface elements of the seal assembly.
5. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the perforations are graded outwardly from the edge.
6. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 5 wherein the perforations near to the edge are relatively small compared to perforations further displayed from the edge and characterised in that the sizes of the perforations vary.
7. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim [[5]] 6 wherein the perforations nearer to the edge have a greater population density per unit area compared to perforations further [[displayed]] spaced from the edge.

8. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the perforations are ~~configured~~ constricted from one side of the seal to the other ~~to facilitate airflow to achieve the desired air pressure differential across the edge.~~

9. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the creases are angular relative to the edge ~~in order to form a ring with sails defined between respective adjacent creases.~~

10. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 4 wherein creases in the adjacent spaced seal ~~[[elements]]~~ surface elements are in a respectively opposed relationship relative to each other.

11. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots extend ~~substantially in a generally~~ perpendicular ~~to the major axis of direction from the edge of the seal.~~

12. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots terminate in one of a keyhole and a bulbous end to inhibit crack propagation due to flexing of the edge.

13. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots are of varying lengths extending from the edge.

14. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 2 wherein the slots have a length at least equivalent to the expected wear depth in use of the seal.

15. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the edge is substantially straight between respective creases.

16. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the edge is curved between respective creases.

17. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of a stiffener fold and a stiffener element is secured to the seal to further reinforce each edge.

18. (currently amended) A seal as claimed in claim 1 ~~wherein the seal is associated with an~~ characterised in that a flow deflector is provided to direct air through the seal ~~air deflector in order to further facilitate air pressure differential across the edge.~~

19. (original) A seal as claimed in claim 1 wherein the edge is formed upon a spiral which extends for a number of cycles to form the seal.

Claims 20-30 are cancelled.

31. (new) A seal assembly as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that a number of seals are secured in alignment with the respective seal edges presented towards that relatively rotating surface.

32. (new) A seal assembly as claimed in claim 31 characterised in that spacing elements are located between adjacent seals.

33. (new) A seal assembly as claimed in claim 31 characterised in that the respective seals are secured in a recess or aperture.